

Tiny Worlds

GENERAL INFORMATION

OBJECTIVES

Students will use their senses to observe organisms in a small patch of ground.

QUESTIONS

What are the five senses? How do our senses help us in our daily lives? How do animals use their sense of touch and sight to help them survive? What kinds of interactions occur in a world much smaller than we are?

VOCABULARY

Senses, hearing, sight, smell, taste, touch

ACTIVITY MATERIALS

Eye loupes or magnifying lenses, 3' – 5' length of yarn

METHODS

INTRODUCTION

Discuss with the students how our senses help us. Lead them in a discussion of what kinds of things might we be missing in a micro-world, such as the soil, underground, or on a blade of grass.

ACTIVITY

Divide students into pairs if appropriate. Hand out the yarn to each team or individual. Ask them to find a spot on the mowed lawn, or on the cave trail that appeals to them. Then place the string on the ground and form it in a circle or a square. Distribute the magnifying lenses to each person. Give them five to ten minutes to make their observations. Inspire them by asking them to observe things like: how animals travel; how they are working; what minute features can they now see on plants that they could not see before; how are the animals using the plants, etc.?

DISCUSSION

Discuss what things the students have missed that occur in tiny worlds. Have them describe any animal behaviors they observed or any interesting plant characteristics they found.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Copyright © 2008 Healing Stones Foundation. All rights reserved.
- Activity adapted by Allison Mains, February 2007 from Sharing Nature with Children, Cornell, Joseph, 1998, Dawn Publications, "Micro-hike", pp. 49-50.

Teacher's Corner

Grade Level(s)

Pre K – K

Time

15 minutes

Grade Level Expectations

GLE 0007.Inq.1: Observe the world of familiar objects using the senses and tools.

GLE 0007.2.2: Know that people interact with their environment through their senses.